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Expedition to Vancouver's Island and British Columbia.

At a Meeting of Gentlemen interested in Arboriculture and Horticulture, Members of the ASSOCIATION and of the COMMITTEE of the OREGON BOTANICAL EXPEDITION, held at Edinburgh, on the 21st July 1862,—

GEORGE PATTON, ESQ. OF THE CAIRNIES, IN THE CHAIR,—

The subject of reorganising the Oregon Association, with a view to the employment of a Botanist to collect the seeds of hardy trees and plants, and the seeds and roots of flowers, was brought before the Meeting.

The Committee formerly appointed reported that they were at present enabled to obtain the services of a Collector, in every way qualified, in the person of Mr ROBERT BROWN, a gentleman devoted to Natural Science, whose merits were attested by high authorities, and whose successful prosecution of science had already been proved by contributions to botanical and various other learned societies. They stated that Mr BROWN was prepared to proceed immediately upon the performance of his duties, and to prosecute the object of the Association in whatever part of the world the Association might direct.

The Meeting was of opinion that the resumption of the labours of the Oregon Committee upon an extended field, would be of national importance, and would tend greatly to the individual advantage of those friends of Arboriculture and Horticulture who might become Members.

The Meeting proceeded to consider as to the part of the world which it would be most desirable to explore. It had been considered at a former period that Japan would form the most advantageous region for the prosecution of the objects of the Association; but, from the experience since had, and the recent exploration by Collectors, the Meeting came to the unanimous opinion that Vancouver's Island and the territory of British Columbia, with the neighbouring countries, would form a field from which more valuable contributions might be expected, of trees, flowers, and other plants adapted to the climate of Great Britain, than from any other region. They were of opinion that this field had hitherto been imperfectly explored, and that it was peculiarly rich in the description of objects which it was important to introduce.

After deliberation, it was unanimously resolved that the Oregon Association be revived, and,

First, That an Association, to be called "The British Columbia Botanical Association," be formed, for the purpose of having an exploration made of British Columbia, Vancouver's Island, and the countries adjoining the Rocky Mountains, with a view to the transmission of seeds of hardy trees and plants, and the seeds and roots of flowers, to the Members;—the field of exploration being subject to modification or extension according to the direction of the Committee.

Second, That Members should subscribe in shares of £5 each, payable yearly, in proportion to which shares, the seeds, &c., sent home, should be distributed at the sight of the Committee;—it being understood, unless otherwise expressly conditioned, that subscriptions should be continued for three years; and that no Member shall be called upon to pay more than the amount of shares subscribed by him.

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Third, That Mr Brown be appointed Collector, and be requested to hold himself in readiness to leave this country for Vancouver's Island so soon as he may be directed by the Committee.

Fourth, That Professor Balfour, with the assistance of Mr M'Nab and Mr M'Intosh, prepare such instructions as may be thought necessary to the Botanist.

Fifth, That Sir Wm. Gibson-Craig, Bart., of Riccarton, be appointed *Chairman*; Mr Isaac Anderson-Henry of Woodend, *Secretary*; and Mr James M'Nab, of the Royal Botanic Garden, *Treasurer*.

Sixth, That the management of the affairs of the Association be placed under the following Committee, with power to add to their number, and to sub-commit:—

Sir Wm. Gibson-Craig, Bart., *Chairman*.
The Honourable Viscount Dalrymple.
Sir William Jardine, Bart.
Sir David Dundas, Bart.
J. H. Balfour, M.D., Esq., Professor of Botany in the University of Edinburgh.
Archibald Campbell, Esq. of Blythswood.
Colonel Ferguson of Raith.
T. A. Hog, Esq. of Newliston.
Humphrey Graham, Esq. of Belstane, W.S.
Isaac Anderson-Henry, Esq. of Woodend, *Secretary*.
Charles Lawson, Esq. of Borthwick Hall (Lord Provost of Edinburgh).
Charles M'Intosh, Esq., Murrayfield.
James M'Nab, Esq., Superintendent of the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, *Treasurer*.
T. Gambier Parry, Esq. of Highnam Court.
George Patton, Esq. of The Cairnies.
David Smith, Esq., Manager of North British Insurance Company.
Wm. Thomas Thomson, Esq., Manager of the Standard Insurance Company.
William Ivory, Esq., St Roque.

Seventh, That the Secretary be requested to get the foregoing Minute and Resolutions printed and circulated among the Members of the Oregon Association, and others interested in Arboriculture and Horticulture; and that the parties so written to communicate immediately with the Secretary, and, if desirous of joining the Association, pay to the Treasurer, Mr James M'Nab, Royal Botanic Garden, the amount of their first year's subscription, so as to enable the Committee to despatch Mr Brown in time to obtain the Seeds of this season.

Hay Lodge, Trinity,
Edinburgh, 27*th November* 1862.

I have the honour of transmitting to you a copy of Resolutions passed by gentlemen interested in Arboriculture and Horticulture, at a Meeting lately held, at which you will observe that an Association was instituted, in revival of the Oregon Association, for sending out a Botanical explorer to British Columbia, Vancouver's Island, &c., in order to transmit to the Members seeds of hardy trees, and herbaceous plants, and seeds and roots of flowers, and subjoined is a list of the subscriptions now obtained. As it has been determined to have the Collector despatched in the early part of next spring, and as the Subscription Lists are now nearly filled up, I have respectfully to request the favour, if you are disposed to join the Association, of an *early* answer intimating the number of shares you desire to take, and to forward as soon as possible the amount of your first yearly contribution, being £5 on each share, to Mr M'Nab, the Treasurer, addressed to him at the Royal Botanic Garden.

I have the honour to be,

Your most obedient Servant,

LIST OF SUBSCRIBERS.

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The Most Noble the Marquis of Bute,	2
The Right Hon. The Earl of Clare, per Robert Hunt, Esq.,	
The Right Hon. Viscount Dalrymple,	2
The Right Hon. The Lord Justice-Clerk,	
Sir T. B. Hepburn, Bart., Smeaton,	1
Sir David Dundas, Bart., Dunira,	3
Sir William Gibson-Craig, Bart., Riccarton,	1
Humphrey Graham, Esq. of Belstane,	1
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